PRIZE ESSAY.

----The "Importance of Our Literary Society," Published by Request of W. E. Wells, Corresponding Secretary of the Hesperian Literary Society.

This subject may be of very little interest to many, yet if we maintain a literary and want others to join our society, it is necessary for us to adduce our reasons.

We come to school for the purpose ot developing our minds-to gain by a systematic course of study that knowledge essential almost to our very existance. And it we gain this knowledge and do not gain the art of expressing it, it may as well be locked up in the treasury at Wash angton as in our heads. It is true, as Bacon says, that "Reading maketh a full man," but if he does not know how to express that learning, it will never make him anything else, and he will be about as much use to himself and mankind as a man made full by drinking whiskey. Some say that if you can not express your learning you can derive good from it yourself; but this is not altogether true, and it it were, shall man be so selfish as to devote every energy of his mind to his own interest and none to the welfare of those about him? We leave this question for you to answer yourselves.

Another reason that we should

join the society is, it teaches us self

reliance; it gives us the tull measure

of our power; it gives us the moral backbone to express our sentiments tearlessly and boldiy. What if the advocates of great reform had given way to the feelings that keep most men from the speaker's stand; would we to-day be enjoying our excellent system of civil government? No. It our American orators had remained passive because of these drawbacks we would be to-day far in the rear guard of civilization. But they did not allow the golden opportunity to pass; they led the people on, and their fearlessness in speaking had as much influence in moulding the destiny of this nation as did the cannon's surly roar, backed by military genius. He who attered the words, "Give me liberty or give me death!" never followed the people and said "G. on," but he led the people and said "Come on." And so it is with our great leaders; they are almost with without an exception good speakers. What is it that has made the British Lion respected wherever the sun shines? You may say it was the army of England; but it is this army backed and maintained by the mvincible eloquence of such men as Gladstone. What is it that has made even kings bow to the man dates of the Emperor of Germany? It is the terrible logic of Bismark secred an passing the laws there made. While the eloquence of our great leaders does not make them any wiser in statesmanship, yet it is the best method of expressing their sentiments. Some claim they could write their sentiments without speak ing, vet they might shove the quill until they got baldheaded and not accomplish halt as much as they would by speaking, for with how much greater torce do words strike the hearer if they carry with them those strong emotions which elicit sympathy in the breast of mankind; for ot how much greater torce is an orator's speech than an author's words, when you can see the orator's soul beaming from his eye. How much more torcible the words "Union and liberty, now and forever, one and inseparable," sound when uttered by Webster than they read in cold print.

And again, we should join the society and learn to speak because are slaves, we are naturally required to know something of the art of neck, face, lower extremeties, or that thought.

before an audience, that they feel you do make mistakes? Should a tellectual powers.

tew paitry blunders crush your efforts? No, they should not, and will not if you will it so. There is an old adage which says "Our life is made up of mistakes and corrections." There is truth in this saving and if we make mistakes the best thing for us to do is to try and correct them. As examples of men who have triumphed over mistakes we might mention Oliver Wendell Phillips and Demosthenes, but you will say they were exceptional cases. But how do you know that you have not some of that fiery eloquence of the Athenian orator or the powerful invective of Phillips? Of course we do not expect you to become a Demosthenes, but it he, as a stuttering lad, conquered the defect, surely you, who have no such impediment and have models in so many great orators, can at least become a speaker good enough to tell what you know. We think there are many who go down into oblivion, who could become great orators, because they fail to make the effort.

Some will say that most of these arguments do not app'y to the gentler sex, but I think they do; for shall they, because they are of a more modest disposition, he a class who can not express their thoughts? Certainty not; it is of as much importance that they know how to speak and read as it is for anybody. They need a logical training as well as men, and speaking is the best way in existance of obtaining a logical mind. And in America we see that many of our great reformers, and more especially in the field of temperance, are ladies; and for these reasons we invite ladies as well as gentlemen to join our society.

And in conclusion I will say, let us make our society as interesting as possible, that others may join us and learn the art of telling what they know and knowing what they tell. EDWARD R. McCory.

A Sudden Death

from heart disease is now quite common. Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" is a certain remedy. Chronic irritation, palpitation, excessive or detective action of the heart, shortness of breath, and oved by it in a sh It also cures all the diseases relating to the liver, stemach, bowls, blood and skin.

From the well known advertising house of George P. Rowell & C., proprietors of the newspaper advertising bureau at 10 Spruce street, New York city, has been issued a small volume containing much and very important information for advertisers. The list of newspapers given contains only such periodicals as are on a sound tooting, and have circulations running up into the thousands. The principal papers of the south, north, east and west are represented, and classified in a convenient way. It has been the aim of the publishers to sift the wheat from the chaff, and the book directs the attention of an advertiser toward papers which he should and ought to use, and tends to intercept a portion of that patronage which goes to publications which cost greatly in excess of any power to benefit which they possess. It takes the general ground, that the best is the cheapest. Prominent among the first journals mentioned is the Butler TIMES, the best advertising medium in Bates

Ninety days without food seem a long time, but Miss Mary Baker of Latavette, Indiana, has just comple ted a tast of period. Morphine is injected into her limbs every four hours. Her fasting commenced with a relapse from a spell of sickness which she had about a year ago, from which she never fully recovered. She fell asleep and slept for five days and nights, since which time she has taken no nourishment or medicine. At irregular intervals in this land of free thought, where she suffers intense agony, occasionthe people are sovereign and none ed by spasmodic contractions of the muscles, sometimes of the hand, arm, speaking; if we have tree thought perhaps the entire body, during let us learn how to treely express which time she is unable to speak aloud. She has gradually wasted But some say they can not speak away to mere skin and bone. Miss Baker before her sickness was the tike they were sea-sick and can not belle of Monon Valley, and a most get their mouths open. But what if beautiful young lady, with great in-

old pill boxes are spread over the land by the thousands after having been emptied by suffering humanity. What a mas of sickning, discussing me licine the poor stomache has to contend with. Too much strong me I we Prickly Ash Bitters is rapidly and a vely taking the place of all this class of drugs, and in curing all the ills arising from a di order ed condition of the live, ki ness, stomach and bowels.

Feloniously Assaulted His Wife.

C. T. Tracy, who resides at 1704 Oak street, quarreled with his wife last night over so ne little difficulty Tracy threw a glass at her which struck her on the head and cut a deep gash. Officer Liggett, who resides next door, arrested Track and preferred a charge of feloniouassault against him.-K. C. Star,

HOW'S THIS.

We offer One Hundred Bollars Reward for any case of ('atarrh that can not be cured by taking Hall's Catairh cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Proprie-

tors, Toledo, O. P. S .- Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internaly, acting directly upon the blood

and mucus surface of the system. Sold by all Druggists, 75 Dts 10 tm

Algernon-I should like rewy much to go for a dwive with you, old chap; but I cahn't do it; I have to pwactice. Adolphus-Gwacious! You are not studying anything, are you? Algernon -No, deah boy; but I pwactre an hour a day twying to learn to keep my eyeglass in my eye. - Rumbler.

First fisherman-What's the matter, old man, did you forget the lines and bait? Second fisherman -Confound my forgetfulness! Yes. Firstfisherman You remembered the cards and flask, it's to be hoped. Second fisherman-Yes. First fisherman-O, wdl. I guess we can manage somehow. - 1d-Bits.

First dude-Aw, Charlie, have you two hawves for a one, don't you know? Second dude (taking out his fortenionnaie) - Awv cawse. Fwed. Hirst dude -Aw. I'm deuced glawd, ton't you know. I'm the one, Charlie, twnd I'll be beholden to you faw the loan awv them, don't you know .- Hushington

"Mr. Featherly," said Bobly, ignoring his mother's signal to keep sull, "did you ever hear pa whistle" "No. "No. Bobby," laughed Featherly, "I never have had that pleasure." "Vell, you will," went on Bobby. "He told ma that he lent you \$5 last night and that he expected to whistle for it."-New

"Yes," said the father of the boy. "I want my son to learn the burher business, and if you will give him a job we won't say anything about wares for six Do you think he is fitted for the business?" asked the butcher. "Fitted for the business? Why, just look at those hands. They don't weigh less than two pounds a piece.-N. Y.

"No, George," she said, "I cannot marry you. I shall always exteem you as a friend, but I cannot be wur wife." George hesutated. "Clara," he said, brokenly, "will you grant meone favor before I go away forever?' "Yes, George," she replied, kindly. "What is it" "Please put your refusal down on paper. I'll feel safer."—Harper's

Artless little thing (proud of her linguistic acquirements): "I do hope you didn't catch what I was saying just now to Mrs. Simpson, Sig. Gavacti. We were talking scandal-in Italian. had no idea you were so close. Could you hear?" Sig. Gavanti: "Yes. I Sig. Gavanti: "Yes, I could 'ere; but it is all a-right. I did not know you were speakin' my lang-

Professor-"That man across the street is a remarkable thoughtful-looking person. I should say he would be successful." Friend—"There is no doubt about it. What is his business, pray?" "O, he drives a dray, and is just thinking on a new plan for obstructing a street crossing or running over some children."—Pittsburg Dis-

Active, Pushing and Reliable.

John G. Walker can always be relied ipon to cary in stock the purest and pest goods, and sustained the reputation of being active, pushing and reliable, by recommending articles with well established merit and such as are popular. Having the agency for the celebrated Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, colds and coughs, will sell it on positive guarantee. It will surely cure any and every affection of the throat, lungs, or chest, and in order to prove our claim, we ask you to call and get a Trial Bottle Free.

MONEY TO LOAN AT SIX

Per Cent. interest, on long time with privilege of paying before due if desired. We do not send borrower's applications away for approval, but decide on them here without delay, and furnish the money at once. We have a large amount of money on hand to be loaned on land. Parties wishing to borrow please call and get our terms. We can furnish the money at once.

The WALTON & TUCKER Land Mortgage Co., Butler, Mo.

"The ladies especially go into ecstacices over Parker's Hair Baisam," writes Mr. H Decker, druggist, of Findlay, Chio. "They say it is the most elegant dress-ing they ever used." Stops failing hair, restores color, promotes growth. 8 2t

Perfect Hair

Ayer's Hair Vigor,

IF YOU ARE SUFFERING from debility and loss of appetite; if your stomach is out of order, or your mind confused;

and stomach troubles. My food did not nourish me, and I became weak and very much emaciated. I took six bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and was cured.

— Julius M. Palmer, Springfield, Mass.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Sold by Druggists. Price \$1; six bottles, \$5.

Võlina Cordial

DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION, WEAKNESS, CHILLS AND FEVERS, MALARIA, LIVER COMPLAINT, KIDNEY TROUBLES NEURALGIA AND RHEUMATISM.

IT gives NEW ing and Delightful to take, whole SYSTEM and of great value as a Medicine for weak and Ailing Women and Chiland completely Di-gesting the food,

no hurtful posed of carefully selected Vegeta-ble Medicines, combined skill fully, making a Safe and Pleasant Remedy.

T is Invigorat-

A Book, 'Volina,'

physicians, telling how to treat dis-eases at HOME. mailed, together with a set of hand-Some cards by new Heliotype process, on receipt of to c

Volina Crug and Chemical Company, RESTRUCER, 20., C. S. A.

EF SOLD BY DRUGGISTS.

DRS.S. & D. DAVIESON ST. LOUIS, MO. The Great Specialists.

Members of University College Hospital, London, England, M. D., New York and Giessen, Germany, beg to inform their patients and others that they can be consulted by correspondence in all cases of Spermatorrhom. Lost Manhord and all diseases resulting from Self-Abuse and kindred Fees moderate. Consultation Fee, including miscroscopical examination of urins, \$5.00. Practical observation on Nervous Debility and Physical Exhaustion sent on receipt of one Zeent stamp. Address. Drs. S & D. DAVIESON, 1707 Olive street St. Louis. Mo. 15 Visitors to St. Louis should visit the Great ANATOMICAL MUSEUM. Mention this paper.

TRASK'S SELECTED SHORE IN PAILS.

OKEREL IN THIS TRASK'S SELECTED SHORE MACREEL

If your Crocer does not keep them send \$1.25, and we will send Pail by Express, prepaid, to the nearest Railroad Station.

Trask fish co. SAINT LOUIS, MO.

Indicates a natural and healthy condition of the scalp, and of the glands through which nourishment is obtained. When, in consequence of age and disease, the hair becomes weak, thin, and gray. Ayer's Hair Vigor will strengthen it, restore its original color, promote its rapid and vigorous growth, and impart to it the lustre and freshness of youth.

I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for a long time, and am convinced of its value. When I was 17 years of age my hair began to turn gray. I commenced using the Vigor, and was surprised at the good effects it produced. It not only restored the color to my hair, but so stimulated its growth that I have now more hair than ever before. — J. W. Edwards, Coldwater, Miss.

Sold by all Druggists and Perfumers.

take Ayer's Sarsaparilla. This medicine will restore physical force and elasticity to the system, more surely and speedily than any tonic yet discovered. For six months I suffered from liver

Ayer's Sarsaparilla,

Sheriff's Sale.

J. M. McKIBBEN.

WITH TENNISSOLE

VALUABLE INFORMATION

Rubber Boots and Shoes

the former soon crack and are worthiss. Any person of common sense with
illingly (if necessary) pay a triffe more
and get goods made without old rubber or shoddy. This you can be sare
of by buying only where the A Elelican rurber to compose the compose of
stamped plainly on heels of
all boots and shanks of all
shoes.

A COMPLETE .

Line of these Superior

GOODS

By virtue and authority of a transcript execution issued from the office of the cierk of the circuit court of Bates county Missouri returnable at the Yebruary term. 1887, of said court, to me directed in tavor of O. F. Renick and against Wm. A. Evans, I have levied and seized upon all the right, title, interest and claim of said detendant, of, in and to the following described real e-tate, in Bates county, Mo. to-wit: Beginning at a point 50 feet north of the northwest corner of block No. 9, in Williams addition to the city of Butler, thence east 152 feet, thence north 135 feet, thence west By virtue and authority of a transcript exe lishs addition to the cast 132 feet, thence west 132 feet, thence south 135 feet to place of beginning, being part of the northwest qua terof northerst quaster of section 22, township 40, range 31. I will, on

Thursday, February 17, 1887, between the hours of 9 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, at the -ast front door of the court house in the city of Butler, Bates county, Missouri, sell the sam- or so much thereof as may be required, at public vendue, to the highest bidder for cash

o satisfy said execution and costs
G. G. GLAZEBROOK.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue and autority of a special execution for costs issued from the office of the cierk of the circuit court of hates county, Missouri, returnable at the February term, 1887, of said court, to me directed in favor of J. H. Hines, and against J. P. Hubble I have levied and special many all the right, title, interest and seized upon all the right, title, interest and claim of said J. P. Hubble of, in and to the follissouri, to-wit: The east half of the north-west quarter of section thirty-four [34] in town-ship No. thirty-nine, range thirty-three.

Wednesday, February 23, 1887, between the hours of 9 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, at the east front door of the court house in the city of Butler. Bates county, Missouri sell the same or so much the cof as may be required, at pub-lic vendue, to the highest bidder for cash, to G. G. GLAZEBR OK,

Order of Publication.

STATE OF MISSOURI, (88. COUNTY OF BATES, in the circuit court of said county, to the June

O. J Goodwin, plaintiff,

Bessie E. Goodwin, defendant,

Now at this day comes the plaintiff herein, by his attorney before the undersigned clerk of the circuit court of Bates county, Mo., in vacation and files his petition and affidavit, alleging, among other things, that defendant, Bessie E. Goodwin, is not a resident of the state of

Whereupon it is ordered by the clerk in va-cation that said defendant be notified by publi-cation that plaintiff has commenced a suit cation that plaintin has commenced a suit against her in this court by petition and affidavit, the object and general nature of which is to obtain a decree of divorce from the bonds of matrimony heretofore contracted with said defendant upon the grounds that defendant has absented herself from the bed and board of plaintin without a reasonable bed and board of plaintiff without a reasonable cause for the space of more than one year, and that unless the said Bessi. E. Goodwin be and appear at this court, at the next term thereof, to be begun and holden at the court house in the city of Butler, in said county, on the sixth day of June next, 1887, and on or before the sixth day of said term, if the term shall so long continue—and if not, then on or before the last day of said term—answer of plead to the petition in said cause, the same will be taken as confessed and independ will be rendered a coordingly. said cause, the same will be taken as conressed and judgment will be rendered accordingly.

And be it further ordered, that a copy hereof be published, according to law, in the Butler Weekly Times, a weekly newspaper printed and published in Bates county, Mo., for four weeks successively, the last insertion to be at least four weeks before the first day of the next term of circuit court.

J. C. HAYES,

A true copy from the record.

Witness my hand and the seal of the circuit (SEAL.) court of Bates county, this 5d day of January, 1887.

J. C. HAYES, Circuit Clerk.

Public Notice

To lay out and establish a private road in Deer Creek township. Bates county. Mo. I hereby notify Isase Van Meter, W. S. Van Meter. Lam-bard Investment Co., and A. L. Hamilton and all others concerned or interested that I will, on the 28th day of January, A. D. 1887. present a petition to the township board of Deer Creek township, Bates county, Missouri, pe-titioning them to lay out and establish a private road in said township, which said petition is in words and figures as follows, to-wit:

road in said township, which said petition is in words and figures as follows, to-wit:

To the Honorable Township Board of Deer Creek Township, Bates county, Missouri:
Your petitioner would respectfully represent and petition four honorable body: That he is a citizen and an inhabitant of Bates county, Missouri, and that he is the owner of the following described real estate lots and tracts of land, to-wit: All of lot one (1) of the east half of fractional section six (6), and the north half of the northeast quarter of section saven (7), all in township forty-two (42), range thirty-one (31), in Bates county, Missouri, and that he is now living on the same as his home, and that no public road or thoroughfare passes through or touches said described land, and that he has no outlet whatever from and to said premises; wherefore your petitioner prays your honorable body to locate and establish him a private road from his said premises to connect with some public road of this state and county.

Your petitioner would further represent that the following described route is the best and most convenient and practicable route from said premises, to-wit: Beginning eight rods east of the northwest corner of lot one (1) of the east half of fractional section six (6), township forty-two (42), range thirty-one (31), thence north to the county line between Cass and Bates counties, said road to be twenty feet wide, said road running across land occupied by one W. S. Vanmeter and supposed to be the property of Isaac Van Meter. W. S. Van Meter, Lambard Investment Co. and A. L. Hamilton, or that they have some interest in the same Wherefore your petitioner further prays that said road he located and established on the above described route by your honorable body, and that you appoint three disinterested commissioners to view the premises and to mark out such road and assess the damages to the owners of the land through which said road passes, as by law required, for whick your petitioner will in duty bound ever oray.

SAMUEL LAWSON.

free, full information about more which they can do, and here at home, that will pay shem from \$1 to \$20 per day. Some have of over \$1 to a day. Ether-ex, young a old Capital equired. You are started free. Thou who start at one-bestulely sure of song little fortunes. All is to

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue and authority of a special excon mechanic's lien issued from the office of cierk of the circuit court of Bates county, returnable at the February term, indicourt to me directed in favor of the R. J. Lumber Company and against Eurone I have levied and seized upon all the title, interest and claim of said defendants and to the following described real cate off of the north side of the east half of latters (3) in block No. nine (9) of Little's dition to the town of Hume, I will, on

Thursday, February 17, 1887, etween the hours of 90'clock in the fo and 30 clock in the afternoon of that der the east front door of the court house in the of Butler, Rates county, Missouri, sell the or so much thereof as may be required, at a lic vendue, to the highest bidder for cont.

ic vendue, to the migand costs.
satisfy said execution and costs.
G. G. GLAZEBROOK.

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue and authority of a special exect or mechanic's lieu issued from the edge of clerk of the circuit court of Rates county, is souri, returnable at the February term, is of sa deourt, to me directed in favor of the J. Hurley Lumber Company and against a McCutchen, I have levieu and seized upon the right tile, interest and claim of said fendant of, in and to the following descrirendent of, in and to the following descripted estate, in Bates county, Mo., to wit:

Commencing at a point 14.07 chains east 180 chains south from the center of section teen (15), in township No. 40 of range Es. 20, 16 chains, thence least 3.16 chains, the north 3.16 chains, thence west 3.16 chains, the north 3.16 chains, thence west 3.16 chains the north 3.16 chains, thence west 3.16 chains place of beginning, I will, on

Thursday, February 17, 1887, between the hours of 9 o'clock in the fores and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, the east front door of the court house in the of Butler, Bates county, Missouri, sell the so or so much thereof as may be required, at pile vendue, to the highest bidder for cash, satisfy said execution and costs.

G. G. GLAZEBROOK, Sherif Bates O.

Order of Publication.

STATE OF MISSOURI, | 88. In the circuit court of Bates county, Misson in vacation. January 7th, 1887. The state Misson in at the relation and to the use of S. Catron, ex officio collector of the reves of Bates county in the state of Misson plaintiff, vs. F. G. Powers, defendant.

Civil action for delinquent taxes. Now at this day comes the plaintiff herein in her attorneys, before the undersigned clerk the circuit court of Bates county in the state Missonri, in vacation, and files her petition and affidavit, stating, amongst other this at the above named defendant, F. G. Pawais a non-resident of the state of Missonri Whereupon it is ordered by the said clerk, he vacation, that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a magainst him in this court by petition and the davit, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the state of Missonri in the delinquent taxes of the years less and lies davit, the object and general nature of which is to enforce the lien of the state of Missouri is the delinquent taxes of the years lists and imamounting in the aggregate to the sum \$4.90, together with interest, costs, commissioned fees, upon the following described the of land situated in Bates county, Missouri to wit: Lot No. nine (9) in block No. fourier (14), in the west side addition to the city Butler, Mo., and that unless the said defended be and appear at the next term of this count, be begun and holden in the city of Butler, Butler, Missouri, on the first Monday in Justice, and on or before the sixth day thereof the term shall so long continue, and if not the before the end of the term.) and pleast to petition according to law, the same will taken as confeased and judgment rendered cording to the prayer of said petition, and the above described real estate sold to satisfy the same.

above described real estate solu to same.

And it is further ordered by the clerk after said that a copy hereof be published in the Butler Times, a weekly newspaper printed published in Butler, Bates county, Missouries for four weeks successively, the last inserting to be at least four weeks before the first day of the next term of said court.

A true copy from the record.

Witness my hand as cierk aforesaid with the seal of said court hereunto affixed.

Skal Done at office in Butler on this the 7th day of January, 1887.

J. C. HAYES.

Circuit Gerk.

Order of Publication.

STATE OF MISSOURI,

In the circuit court of Bates county, Missouri, in vacation, January 7th, 1887. The state of Missouri at the relation and to the use of E. Catron ex-officio collector of the revenue of Bates county, in the state of Missouri, plained Bates county, in the state of Missouri, p vs. Louis Geiser, defendant.

Civil action for delinquent taxes. Now at this day comes the plaintiff hereis, by er attorneys, before the undersigned clerk a

Now at this day comes the plaintiff hereis, by her attorneys, before the undersigned clerk of the circuit court of Bates county in the state of Missouri, in vacation and files her petition and affidavit, stating among other thisge, that is above named defendant Louis Geiser, is a new resident of the state of Missouri:

Whereupon it is ordered by the clerk is recation that said defendant be notified by publication that plaintiff has commenced a against him in this court, by petition and davit, the object and general nature of which to enforce the lein of the state of Missouri at the delinquent taxes of the years 1873, 1874, 1877 and 1885, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of \$5.82. together with interes, commission and fees, upon the following acribed tracts of land situated in Bates commended the county, Missouri, to the term of this court, to the term shall so long continue, and if not the before the end of the term,) and plead to said petition according to law, the same will be taken as confeased and judgment rendered according to the prayer of said petition, and the above described real estate sold to satisfy the same.

And it is further ordered by the clerk afore-

And it is further ordered by the clerk afore-and that a copy hereof be published in the Butler Traks, a weekly newspaper printed and pub-lished in Bates county. Mo., for four week auccessively, the last insertion to be at least four weeks before the first day of the next term of said court.

Witness my hand as clerk aforesaid with the seal of said court hereunto affixed.

SEAL Done at office in Butler on this the 7th day of January. 1867.

Circuit Clerk.